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Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 26 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 19 June 2014, regarding the twenty-eighth round of the Geneva international discussions (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 26 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the twenty-eighth round of the Geneva International Discussions

The twenty-eighth round of the Geneva international discussions was held on 18 June 2014. The participants of the Geneva discussions took part, in their individual capacity, in the two Working Groups, the first focusing on security and stability in the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, and the second on the issues related to the safe and dignified return of all internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their original residence. The discussions were co-chaired by the representatives of the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and attended by the participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Head of the Provisional Administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District and the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, as well as representatives of the Sokhumi and Tskhinvali occupation regimes, took part in the twenty-eighth round of the Geneva discussions.

Georgia welcomes the participation of the new European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Ambassador Herbert Salber. Georgia is confident that his competence and personal commitment to the discussions will considerably benefit the work within the Geneva discussions and further enhance the European Union's strong engagement in the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The urgency of discussions was particularly amplified in the context of the ongoing alarming developments in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, posing a risk to the local population and further undermining Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

In both Working Groups, Georgian participants intended to bring to the attention of the co-Chairs, and comprehensively discuss, the security and humanitarian implications of these developments on the ground — discriminatory measures against ethnic Georgians in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, concrete examples of the restriction of freedom of movement and the right to education in native language, health care and other social, economic and cultural rights. The aim of the Georgian participants was to raise concerns with the occupation power, as it bears full responsibility under international law for the protection of human rights of all residents.

Unfortunately, the ongoing destabilizing trends in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions have been manifested in the concrete behaviour of respective participants within the Geneva discussions. The participants from Moscow, Sokhumi and Tskhinvali refused to engage in discussions in a constructive manner, chose to walk out of Working Group II and attempted to join Working Group I. Confronted with these disruptive attempts aimed at achieving the change of the established practice of the conduct of meetings, first and foremost, of the key agenda item

pertaining to the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the co-Chairs had to suspend the work.

The Georgian side expresses its regret over the destructive attitude of some participants that has blocked the work within the Working Groups and prevented the participants from discussing the principal issues of the agenda. Georgia is grateful to the co-Chairs for their firm and clear stance in preserving the format and agenda of the Geneva international discussions. The Georgian participants remain hopeful that the co-Chairs will manage to secure the constructive engagement of the participants at the next round within the established format, and ensure their participation in discussions of the key issues of the agreed agenda. Georgia is committed to further continue its traditionally constructive cooperation with the co-Chairs with the aim to ensure the unhindered and substantive discussions in both Working Groups and advance work on the realization of the main objective to guarantee the full implementation of the 12 August 2008 Georgia-Russia ceasefire agreement.

The twenty-ninth round of the Geneva international discussions will be held on 7 and 8 October 2014.

Tbilisi, 19 June 2014